

SHOCK

JULY

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CHILLING TALES OF HORROR AND SUSPENSE



VAMPIRE'S CASTLE
THE HOWLING HEAD

THE NOOSE
OF PEARLS

HYPNOTIST
OF DEATH

PLUS OTHER
HORRIFYING
TALES OF THE
SUPERNATURAL

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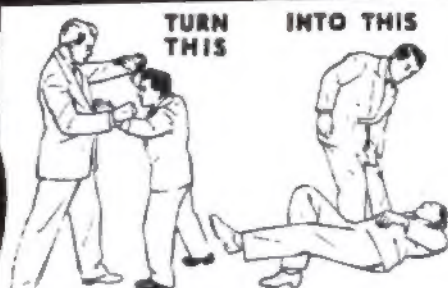
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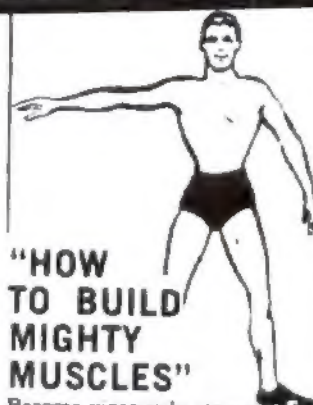
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SHOCK

CHILLING TALES OF HORROR AND SUSPENSE

JULY 1970

VOL. 1, NO. 8

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Inside the ancient walls the horror of the undead waited for a new human victim

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He stole his rival's most precious possession, but his booty returned to haunt him

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Within those eyes lurked the power of infinite evil and threatened the very existence of the entire world

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What vile power hid behind those shining, long dead eyes, which lusted in the dark

NOOSE OF PEARLS..... 44

Such pretty baubles they were, fit to gild the throat of a queen, an empress—or a shroud

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Vampire's Castle

ONE OF MY FORMER SQUADRON BUDDIES PICKED UP THIS OLD PARCHMENT DRAWING IN A MUNICH BOOKSTORE, TRUDY! IT'S EXACTLY THE KIND OF MATERIAL I NEED FOR MY BOOK ON THE EARLY HISTORY OF AVIATION!

THAT'S AN AWFULLY CRUDE APPARATUS, BILL---BUT IT CERTAINLY **DOES** SEEM THAT DR. MANUSALA TRIED TO FLY WITH IT AT DOMA CASTLE IN TRANSYLVANIA---WAY BACK IN 1506!

Dr. Manusala - Castellum Doma - 1506 Transylvania

WHAT MYSTERIOUS IMPULSE PROMPTED MAN'S FIRST ATTEMPTS TO FLY? COULD IT HAVE BEEN THE SIGHT OF BATS TWITTERING IN THE DUSK -- THE LEGEND OF VAMPIRES WHOSE BLACK AND FURRY WINGS RUSTLED IN THE GLOOM OF MIDNIGHT?

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN MEN SHUDDERED AND BELIEVED SUCH THINGS -- A TIME THAT REMAINED UNCHANGED IN THE CREAKING CORRIDORS OF THE **VAMPIRE'S CASTLE!**

TRUDY, I'VE LEARNED DOMA CASTLE IS STILL STANDING -- AND I'LL BET A SEARCH OF THE PLACE WOULD UNCOVER THE VERY APPARATUS DR. MANUSALA EXPERIMENTED WITH! LET'S FLY THERE-- AND TAKE ALONG A CAMERA AND DEVELOPING KIT SO WE'LL BE SURE OF GETTING PICTURES FOR MY BOOK!

SOMETHING LIKE A WARNING CROSSES TRUDY'S MIND -- A VAGUE TREMOR OF DOUBT!

I CAN UNDERSTAND DR. MANUSALA BEING INTERESTED IN FLYING, BILL -- BUT ISN'T IT **STRANGE** THAT HE MODELED THE WINGS AFTER THOSE OF A **BAT** -- RATHER THAN A BIRD?

GOSH, TRUDY--ANY AIRMAN KNOWS THAT A BAT'S WING IS JUST AS EFFICIENT AS A BIRD'S! THERE'S NO REASON WHY DR. MANUSALA SHOULD HAVE AVOIDED BATS--JUST BECAUSE OF THE SUPERSTITIOUS DREAD THEY INSPIRE!

BY NIGHTFALL--BILL'S PLANE IS DRONING ACROSS THE ATLANTIC!

TRANSYLVANIA IS A PRETTY RUGGED COUNTRY -- BUT THE OLD ATLAS I CONSULTED MENTIONED THAT DOMA CASTLE CAN BE UNMISTAKABLY IDENTIFIED!

WONDER WHAT THAT MEANS? WHY SHOULD IT BE DIFFERENT FROM ANY **OTHER** CASTLE?



SEVERAL DAYS LATER-- OVER THE GRIM, CRAGGY UPLANDS OF TRANSYLVANIA --

WE CAN'T BE TOO FAR FROM DOMA CASTLE, TRUDY -- UNLESS THIS MAP IS OFF!

IT ISN'T! LOOK!



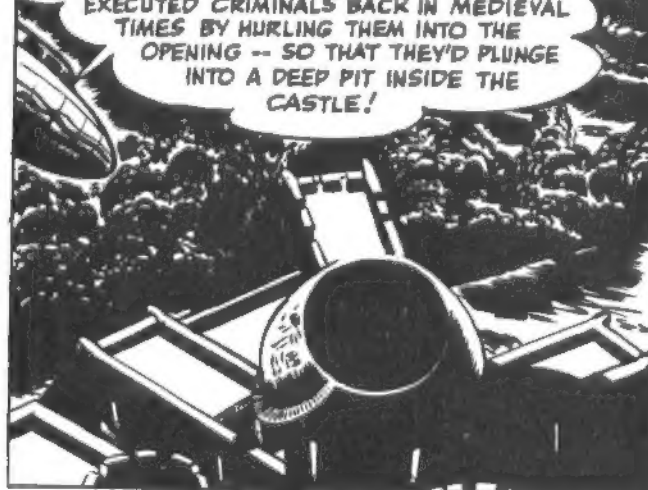
RIISING STARKLY BELOW -- ITS SPANNING WALLS FORMING A FORBIDDING OUTLINE --

THERE IT IS, BILL -- AND ITS VERY SHAPE SUGGESTS A BAT!



AS BILL SWOOPS LOW OVER THE SILENT BATTLEMENTS --

PROBABLY JUST A QUIRK OF DR. MANUSALA'S! AS FOR THAT HOLLOW TOWER -- THEY OFTEN EXECUTED CRIMINALS BACK IN MEDIEVAL TIMES BY HURLING THEM INTO THE OPENING -- SO THAT THEY'D PLUNGE INTO A DEEP PIT INSIDE THE CASTLE!



MINUTES LATER --

GOOD THING WE LANDED BEFORE THIS STORM BROKE, TRUDY! COME ON -- LET'S GET INSIDE!

BILL--ARE YOU SURE IT WILL BE-- SAFER IN THERE?



SAFER? TOO LATE TO THINK OF THAT NOW -- WITH THE DUST OF CENTURIES MUFFLING THEIR FOOTSTEPS IN THE DARK AND RAFTERED HALL!

AMAZING THAT THIS PLACE SHOULD BE INTACT -- JUST AS DR. MANUSALA LEFT IT, FOUR HUNDRED YEARS AGO! THERE'S SOMETHING OLD IN THE ATMOSPHERE --

BILL! OVER THERE-- ON THE WALL!

YES, THERE'S SOMETHING OLD -- VERY OLD -- SOMETHING THAT CLINGS TO THE DANK STONE, ITS EYES GLINTING IN THE FLASHLIGHT BEAM!

ANOTHER ONE, BILL -- ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE HORRID BATS!



RELAX, TRUDY! IT'S JUST A TAPESTRY WALL HANGING -- WITH JEWELLED EYES!

BUT WHY WAS DR. MANUSALA SO HIPPIED ON BATS, BILL?

MAYBE HE DID HAVE A REASON FOR DESIGNING THE WINGS LIKE A BAT'S -- BUT WHY SHAPE THE CASTLE THAT WAY -- AND WHY THIS?



ISN'T IT **NATURAL** THAT AN OLD SCHOLAR -- INTERESTED IN FLYING -- WOULD USE A WINGED CREATURE LIKE A BAT AS HIS EMBLEM? I'M SURE YOUR MIND WILL BE AT REST, TRUDY -- ONCE WE FIND DR. MANUSALA'S WORKROOM!

MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, BILL! LET'S SEE WHERE THIS STAIRWAY LEADS!

DR. MANUSALA WOULD HAVE WANTED TO GET AWAY FROM THE NOISY ACTIVITY OF THE CASTLE -- SO I **THINK** WE'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK!

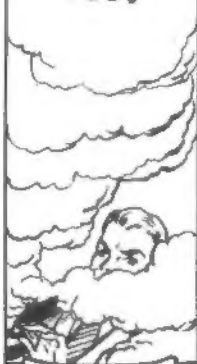
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT! SEE THOSE DOOR HINGES?



FOR THE FIRST TIME -- A STRANGE AND NAMELESS SUSPICION ENVELOPS BILL LIKE A CREEPING FOG!

YOU CALL THOSE BAT-SHAPED THINGS JUST AN EMBLEM, BILL -- BUT I'M SCARED -- TERRIFIED!

I'M BEGINNING TO WONDER, MYSELF! BUT LET'S NOT BACK OUT NOW -- WHEN WE'RE SO CLOSE TO THE ANSWER -- **IN THERE!**



WOW! IF THIS SETUP IS ANY INDICATION -- **INVENTIONS** WERE JUST DR. MANUSALA'S SIDELINE! HIS **BIG** INTEREST WAS ALCHEMY -- AND THAT COVERED EVERYTHING FROM CHEMISTRY TO THE SUPERNATURAL!

IN THAT CASE -- THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT WE'LL FIND INSIDE THAT DOMED OPENING!



THIS BOOK IS OPEN AT FORMULA 172 -- SO IT MUST BE THE STUFF IN THAT BOTTLE! THE LATIN INSCRIPTION SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN CROSSED OUT HASTILY, JUST AS IF THE FORMULA HAD BEEN DISCARDED -- BUT MAYBE I CAN TRANSLATE IT!

SLOWLY, BILL DECIPHERS THE ANCIENT SCRAWL -- AND THEN -- THE TRUTH ABOUT DR. MANUSALA FLASHES LIKE A LIGHTNING BOLT!

"ONE PART WITCH'S BREW, AND ONE PART MOSS FROM A GALLOWS TREE: ADD A BAT -- AND WHEN IT'S DONE, TOUCH IT -- AND A VAMPIRE BE!"

VAMPIRE! GREAT GUNS -- MANUSALA IS LATIN, TOO! IT'S A DIRECT TRANSLATION OF CHIROPTERON, OR WINGED HAND -- THE GREEK WORD FOR BAT!





TRUDY, DR. MANUSALA IS DEAD -- HE DIED OVER FOUR CENTURIES AGO -- SO THERE'S NO REASON WHY YOU SHOULDN'T TRY TO GET SOME REST IN ONE OF THE UPSTAIRS CHAMBERS! I HAVEN'T FINISHED LOOKING AROUND YET -- AND BESIDES, IT WOULD BE SUICIDE TO ATTEMPT A TAKEOFF IN **THIS** KIND OF COUNTRY BEFORE DAYLIGHT!



A MOMENT LATER --

I THINK I'LL BE ALL RIGHT, BILL -- BUT WILL YOU BE NEAR ENOUGH TO HEAR ME IF ANYTHING HAPPENS?



NATCH! AND IF IT WILL MAKE YOU FEEL ANY MORE SECURE -- THERE'S A GUN AT THE BOTTOM OF MY PHOTOGRAPHY KIT!

AS BILL CROSSES THE ECHOING MAIN HALL --

HAAA!
HAA-
HAAAA!

THAT SOUNDS LIKE A LAUGH -- AND IT'S DIABOLICAL! WE'VE JUST LEFT DR. MANUSALA'S LABORATORY -- AND I KNOW THERE'S NOTHING DOWN THERE!



BUT OUT OF THE PIT BELOW -- LIKE A NIGHTMARE COME TO LIFE --

FOUR HUNDRED YEARS! FOUR HUNDRED YEARS OF WAITING -- MIDNIGHT AFTER MIDNIGHT -- AND NOW I'M FREE!



HALF HOPPING -- HALF FLAPPING -- THE TERRIFYING FORM ADVANCES!

I NEEDN'T ASK WHO YOU ARE -- OR WHAT -- BECAUSE I KNOW! **DR. MANUSALA!**

YOU FOUND THE SECRET THAT HAD ESCAPED ME! I THOUGHT MY FORMULA WAS A FAILURE -- NOT REALIZING THAT THE COMPOUND NEEDED AGING BEFORE IT BECAME EFFECTIVE!



AND IT **HAS** AGED -- LONG ENOUGH TO GIVE IT A POTENCY I NEVER HOPED FOR! CASTING THE LIQUID OVER MY SKELETON HAS RE-CREATED ME AS I WANTED TO BE -- **AS A VAMPIRE!**



WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GAIN BY THAT, MANUSALA? WHAT CAN YOU POSSIBLY FIND -- BUT THE FEAR AND LOATHING OF EVERYONE YOU MEET?

IMMORTALITY -- BECAUSE THE MAGIC THAT WAS ONCE USED TO CHECK VAMPIRES IS FORGOTTEN NOW! WHAT HAVE I TO FEAR FROM A SILVER STAKE -- WHEN I HAVE TRAINED MYSELF TO STAY AWAY FROM POINTED SILVER OBJECTS? AS LONG AS MY VICTIMS LAST -- **I SHALL LIVE FOREVER!**







THAT "FIRST VICTIM" MANUSALA MENTIONED IS **TRUDY** -- BUT WHILE I'VE GOT AN OUNCE OF STRENGTH LEFT -- SHE **WON'T BE ALONE!**



DESPERATELY, **BILL** CLAWS TOWARD THE TOP OF THE MOAT -- AND THEN --



IN A HEADLONG PLUNGE THROUGH THE MURKY DEPTHS --

THERE'S SOMETHING HALF BURIED IN THE MUD -- **A HALBERD!**



THIS THING MUST HAVE FALLEN INTO THE MOAT DURING SOME FORGOTTEN SKIRMISH CENTURIES AGO -- AND IT'S CERTAINLY COMING IN HANDY **NOW!**



A MOMENT LATER --

THAT FAINT RUSTLE MAY NOT BE ANYTHING -- BUT THERE'S **ANOTHER** NOISE I DON'T LIKE AT ALL! BREATHING -- HEAVY BREATHING -- **AND IT'S CLOSE!**



THEN A DARK MASS REARS BETWEEN TRUDY AND THE LAMP -- A FORM THAT RESOLVES INTO A PALLID FACE AND JAGGED WINGS!

DON'T COME NEAR ME! **BILL! BILL!**

HAA! DO YOU THINK THAT CRY FLOATING THROUGH THE CASTLE WILL REACH **HIM** -- FLOATING ON HIS BACK IN THE MOAT -- FLOATING WITH STARING EYES?



THAT'S QUITE A GHASTLY PICTURE, MANUSALA -- ONLY I'M NOT IN IT!

YOU DON'T THINK SO, HAH? **WE'LL SEE!**

AS THE WAKEN, GAPING FEATURES LOOM CLOSER --

TEN PACES SEPARATE US--TEN SECONDS -- BEFORE I FINISH YOU FOREVER!

REMEMBER SAYING YOU'D NEVER BE TRAPPED BY A SILVER OBJECT, MANUSALA? WELL --



ARRRRGH!

THERE'S A FORM OF SILVER YOU NEVER EXPECTED, BECAUSE IT WAS DISCOVERED LONG AFTER YOU DIED -- **SILVER CHLORIDE!**



IN THE NEXT INSTANT --

SILVER.. SILVER.. THE CURSE -- OF VAMPIRES!

I THOUGHT WE'D NEED THAT PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT-- BUT I NEVER GUESSED HOW MUCH!



DR. MANUSALA HAS TIME FOR JUST ONE WILD, FLURRYING SWOOP -- AND THEN --

THE TOWER! NO--NO-- NOT THE PIT AGAIN-- THE DARKNESS AND DRIFTING DUST-- AAGHHHH!



SOUNDING HOLLOWLY FROM THE STONE DEPTHS --

YES, IT **IS** THE PIT AGAIN--AND **THIS** TIME I THINK HE'LL STAY THERE!



FOR THE FIRST TIME IN CENTURIES, A PEACEFUL HUSH FALLS OVER THE VAMPIRE'S CASTLE -- AND AS BILL AND TRUDY RETURN TO THE SECRET CHAMBER OF DR. MANUSALA --

HE'S JUST THE WAY WE FOUND HIM, TRUDY -- A SKELETON WITH BATTERED WINGS! I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY CHANCE OF SOMEONE MAKING A **NEW** BATCH OF THAT COMPOUND-- AND ACCIDENTALLY **RESTORING** HIM!

YOU CAN JOLLY WELL **BET** THERE ISN'T-- **BECAUSE I'VE BURNED THE FORMULA!**



The END

The HANDS of HORROR



A MAGAZINE AS POPULAR AS OURS GETS A LOT OF MAIL FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD! BUT WHO WOULD EVER EXPECT TO GET A LETTER FROM OUT OF THIS WORLD... FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE? AND WHAT A STORY IT CONTAINED! WE'RE PASSING IT ON TO YOU JUST AS WE GOT IT... SO BOLT THE DOORS, TURN THE LIGHTS DOWN LOW, AND PREPARE YOURSELF FOR A TALE THAT WILL HAUNT YOU FOR THE REST OF YOUR DAYS!



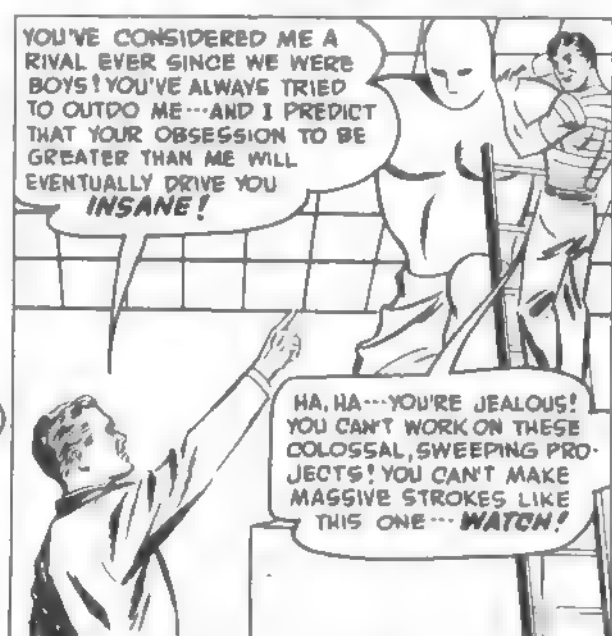
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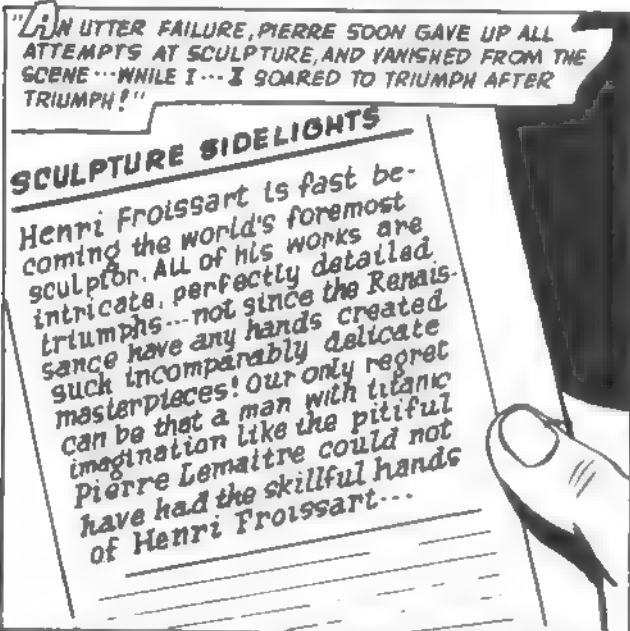
This is to let the whole world know the true story of how I, Henri Froissant, was murdered by a grave-robbing madman... and of how he ghastly stole and used my greatest possession to enhance his own fame! But to enhance his own fame! But you're probably wondering how a dead man can be writing this letter... so let me start from the beginning...

"... YOU KNOW WHO I AM, OF COURSE... EVERYONE HAS HEARD OF HENRI FROISSART, THE GREATEST SCULPTOR FRANCE EVER PRODUCED! BUT YOU PROBABLY DON'T KNOW OF THE INTENSE RIVALRY BETWEEN ME AND PIERRE LAMAITRE... WHEN WE WERE BOTH YOUNG PROTEGES OF PROF. RAMEAU..."

IT'S UNBELIEVABLE THAT TWO SUCH GENIUSES SHOULD APPEAR IN THE SAME GENERATION! UNBELIEVABLE AND UNFORTUNATE... FOR I CAN SEE THAT YOU TWO WILL BE RIVALS TO THE DEATH!







I AM NOT THROUGH WITH YOU YET, MY FRIEND! WE SHALL MEET AGAIN... IN YOUR TOMB!

A WEEK HAS PASSED SINCE HIS INTERMENT, THE TURMOIL ABOUT HIS MURDER HAS DIED DOWN ---AND IT IS THE RIGHT TIME NOW FOR ME TO **COMPLETE MY WORK!**

HA, HA --- I HAVE THEM NOW
 --- THEY WILL BE MINE, *MINE!*
 I, PIERRE LEMAITRE, WILL NOW
 BE THE **GREATEST SCULPTOR**
IN THE WORLD!

"FROM OUT OF THE GREAT UNKNOWN, I LOOKED UPON THE WORLD OF MORTALS, AND PERCEIVED HOW MY MURDERER, THE DESPOILER OF MY TOMB, HAD PUT HIS DIABOLICAL OCCULT SECRETS TO WORK! HE RETURNED TO HIS SCULPTURES, BUT THIS TIME..."



THERE---IT IS COMPLETED---AND **PERFECT!** NO LONGER WILL MY CLUMSY HANDS BETRAY ME AND RUIN THE FRUITS OF MY LABOR---FAME AND GLORY WILL NOW BE **MINE!**

IT---IT IS UNBELIEVABLE---THIS IS A **NEW PIERRE LEMAITRE!** HE HAS RETAINED HIS VAST IMAGINATIVE VISION---BUT HE HAS ADDED TO IT AN INCOMPARABLE DELICACY OF LINE AND INTRICATE DETAIL--ALMOST AS IF **HENRI FROISSART HIMSELF** WERE HELPING HIM FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE!



IT IS STRANGE THAT LEMAITRE SHOULD ACHIEVE SUCH PERFECTION ONLY AFTER FROISSART'S DEATH! I **WONDER...**

"BUT FOR ONE HOUR EACH NIGHT, FROM 12 MIDNIGHT TO 1 A.M.---THE HOUR OF MY MURDER---I HAD STRANGE, SUPER-NATURAL POWERS OF MY OWN! AND WHENEVER PIERRE WORKED EVEN A MINUTE PAST MIDNIGHT..."



BLAST YOU---YOU'VE SMASHED THE LIGHT---SMASHED MY WORK---BUT YOU WON'T GET ME! BACK---BACK INTO YOUR CASKET---THERE!

THOSE---THOSE DEVILISH THINGS---THEY TORE OFF MY WRIST-WATCH, ALMOST CLAWED ME TO DEATH! I'LL HAVE TO BE MORE CAREFUL NOT TO WORK IN THE HOUR AFTER MIDNIGHT---BECAUSE THAT IS THE ONLY TIME THEY CAN HARM ME! BUT FOR THE OTHER 23 HOURS EVERY DAY, I HAVE COMPLETE CONTROL OVER THEM---AND THEY MUST DO MY BIDDING!



AH, BUT NOW IT IS ONE O'CLOCK---THE HOUR HAS FLOWN QUICKLY! NOW IT IS SAFE TO TAKE THEM OUT AGAIN---AND FORCE THEM TO REPAIR THE WORK **THEY SMASHED TONIGHT!**



EVERYONE WONDERED HOW I ACQUIRED THE DELICATE ARTISTRY OF HENRI FROISSART! BUT WHO WOULD HAVE SUGGESTED THAT I ACTUALLY **USED HENRI'S HANDS...** THE HANDS I REMOVED FROM HIS CORPSE!



YES, OCCULT MEDICINE GAVE ME SUPER-NATURAL POWERS... SO THAT I COULD HOLLOW OUT HIS HANDS WITHOUT DESTROYING THEIR ARTISTIC SKILL... AND WEAR THEM LIKE GLOVES...

YES, AND THESE GAME HANDS PURPOSELY SMASHED THE LIGHT... SO THAT THEY COULD TURN YOUR WRIST-WATCH 15 MINUTES AHEAD!



WHO...WHO SPEAKS? WHERE ARE YOU?

I'M THE TRUE OWNER OF THOSE HANDS... FROM THE WORLD OF THE UNKNOWN! BUT YOU WILL SOON JOIN ME IN THE REALM OF THE DEAD... FOR MY HANDS HAVE 15 MINUTES TO WREAK THEIR REVENGE!



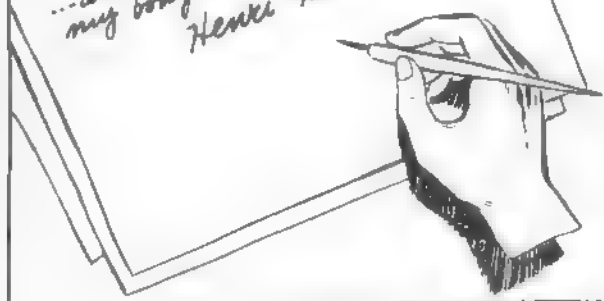
THE HANDS... THEY'VE ASSUMED A LIFE OF THEIR OWN... THEY'RE REACHING FOR MY THROAT! GOT TO GET THEM BACK IN THE BOX... GOT TO... BUT THEY... THEY'RE TOO STRONG... CAN'T HOLD THEM BACK...



CHOKING ME
...STRANGLING
...CAN'T BREATHE
...AARGHH!



Yes, that is the true story which I wish to have published... so that the whole world will give me the credit for Pierre Lemaître's successes... for mine were the hands that created them! But now my revenge is complete... and I must go... to repay my body! I drawwell...
Henri Froissart



SACRE BLEU... HIC... I SHOULDN'T HAVE DRUNK SO MUCH CHAMPAGNE TONIGHT! I... I MUST BE TRULY DRUNK... HIC... FOR I SEE A PAIR OF BODILESS HANDS MAILING THAT LETTER!



THE END!

HYPNOTIST of DEATH

GAZE DEEPLY...~~DEEPLY~~ INTO MY EYES! YOU NO LONGER HAVE ANY WILL OF YOUR OWN--AND YOU **MUST OBEY ME!** GAZE DEEPLY--AND TELL ME **THE SECRET THAT WILL DESTROY AMERICA!**



HYPNOSIS--MOST FEARED OF SCIENCES! IN DAYS LONG PAST, IT WAS VIEWED AS **BLACK MAGIC**--PRODUCT OF SATAN HIMSELF! TODAY WE KNOW IT AS A SKILFUL ART--BUT IT'S AN ART WHICH MAY BE CORRUPTED TO EVIL PURPOSES! HERE'S A STRANGE STORY--THE TALE OF HOW THE EERIE POWER IN A MAN'S EYES WAS USED TO STEAL A NATION'S MOST VITAL SECRETS--UNTIL COUNTER-ESPIONAGE SMASHED A VILLAINOUS PLOT!

I'M ON THE VERGE OF A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN, LOU! THE GREATEST SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY OF THE AGES IS RIGHT ON THE TIP OF MY TONGUE--BUT THE FINAL SECRET ALWAYS SEEMS TO ELUDE ME! IT'S DRIVING ME MAD!

TAKE IT **EASY,** PROFESSOR WINTHROP--**CALM DOWN!**



THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT KNOWS HOW VITALLY IMPORTANT YOUR RESEARCH IS! THAT'S WHY I WAS ASSIGNED TO GUARD YOU 24 HOURS A DAY--AND WHY THEY BUILT THIS SECRET LAB FOR YOU AT THE **KEY WEST NAVAL BASE!** PLEASE--RELAX!

HOW CAN I RELAX WHEN IT STILL ELUDES ME--MY

ANTI-GRAVITY DEVICE THAT WOULD MAKE THE HEAVIEST LOAD LIGHTER THAN A FEATHER!







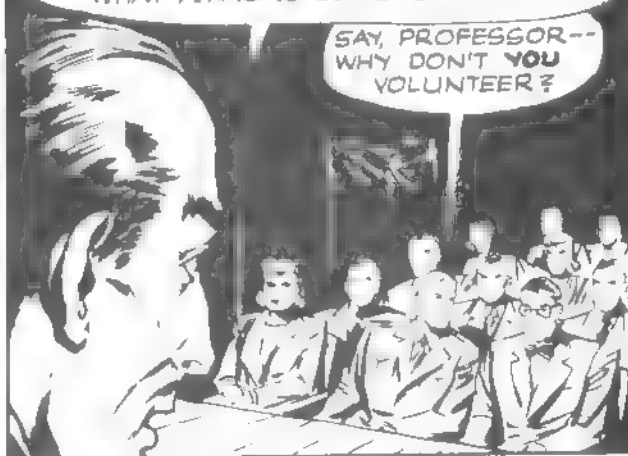
OTTO IS READY TO GO ON FOR HIS SECOND ACT! WHERE'D THE SECRET SERVICE MAN--LOUIS GAINES--DISAPPEAR TO?

HE WENT DOWN THE STREET FOR A DRINK--HE'LL MEET US WHEN THE SHOW IS OVER!



AND NOW LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IF THERE IS ANYONE HERE WHO HAS LOST OR FORGOTTEN ANYTHING--JUST SPEAK UP! FOR I, OTTO THE GREAT--CAN ILLUMINATE THE UNCONSCIOUS MIND WITH THE BLINDING LIGHT OF HYPNOTISM, AND CAN REVEAL WHAT AMAZING SECRETS LIE THEREIN!

SAY, PROFESSOR-- WHY DON'T YOU VOLUNTEER?



AH YOU LOOK LIKE A MAN WITH SOMETHING TROUBLING YOU-- SOMETHING IN THE BACK OF YOUR MIND THAT YOU WANT TO BECOME CONSCIOUS OF. YOU WILL COME UP ON THE STAGE!

I CAN'T--HAVE TO ASK LOU. OH--THOSE... THOSE BURNING EYES! I I FEEL AS IF I'M BEING DRAWN INTO THEM--DEEPER--DEEPER--YES-- I WILL COME UP!

GAZE DEEPLY...DEEPLY! YOU NO LONGER HAVE ANY WILL OF YOUR OWN--YOU ARE BECOMING SUBJECT TO MY WILL! YOU WILL RELAX... COMPLETELY--ALL MENTAL TENSION IS DISAPPEARING--SO THAT THE MESSAGES FROM THE DEPTH OF YOUR UNCONSCIOUS MIND CAN FLOW FREELY TO YOUR CONSCIOUS BRAIN!

YES... RELAX... SLEEP...



NOW--- THE THING THAT HAS BEEN BOTHERING YOU, THAT HAS BEEN LURKING IN YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS--WILL NOW BECOME CONSCIOUS--IT IS CONSCIOUS! YOU NOW KNOW THE SECRET FOR WHICH YOU SOUGHT SO LONG--YOU KNOW IT! SPEAK IT!

THE FORCE OF GRAVITY... CAN BE EASILY NEUTRALIZED BY..

WAIT---THERE IS NO NEED TO LET THIS WHOLE AUDIENCE IN ON YOUR SECRET! WHILE UNDER THIS HYPNOTIC TRANCE, YOU CAN WRITE IT ALL DOWN AUTOMATICALLY--HERE! WRITE!



MINUTES LATER...

EXCELLENT--YOU WROTE IT ALL DOWN ON THIS PIECE OF PAPER! NOW I WILL BRING YOU OUT OF THE HYPNOTIC TRANCE, GIVE YOU THE PAPER--AND TONIGHT'S PERFORMANCE WILL BE OVER! AWAKE--NOW!



@OUTSIDE...

COME ON, PROFESSOR--THERE'S A CAR THAT'LL TAKE US BACK TO THE BASE!

I'M CERTAINLY GLAD OTTO DIDN'T MAKE ME TALK ABOUT THE ANTI-GRAVITY CIRCUIT IN FRONT OF THAT AUDIENCE--BECAUSE NOW I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS THE SECRET--AND THIS PAPER IS THE ONLY RECORD OF IT!



WAIT--THIS PAPER IS BLANK!

GET IN THAT CAR, PROFESSOR! FAST--BECAUSE OUR BULLETS AREN'T BLANKS!



MOMENTS LATER...

MY...MY HEAD... MY RIBS--WHAT A BEATING I MUST HAVE TAKEN! AND I...I STILL FEEL SO FAINT... SO WEAK!



THE THEATRE'S EMPTY--AND THE PROFESSOR IS GONE--HEAVEN ONLY KNOWS WHERE! I'VE GOT TO THINK FAST! THE ONLY POSSIBLE MOTIVE FOR GETTING ME OUT OF THE WAY IS ESPIONAGE--BUT HOW DID THEY KNOW THE PROFESSOR AND I WOULD BE AT THE THEATRE? ONLY ONE OTHER PERSON KNEW WE'D BE HERE TONIGHT--COMMANDER LOCKWOOD!



BUT LOU--COMMANDER LOCKWOOD COULDN'T HAVE BEEN WITH YOU TONIGHT! HE JUST STAGGERED INTO THE BASE WITH A STORY OF BEING STOPPED BY A MAN WHO ASKED FOR A LIGHT--AND OF SUDDENLY COLLAPSING FROM WEAKNESS! WHEN HE REVIVED, HE FOUND HE'D BEEN STRIPPED OF HIS UNIFORM AND CREDENTIALS!



WHAT A FOOL I WAS--FALLING FOR AN IMPOSTOR JUST BECAUSE HIS UNIFORM AND CREDENTIALS LOOKED OKAY! BUT NOW TO FIND THAT PHONEY PSYCHIATRIST AND THE PROF--THE ONLY WAY TO GET OFF THIS ISLAND IS BY BOAT, SO I'D BETTER START MAKING THE ROUNDS OF THE WATERFRONT!



AFTER A ROUND OF FRUITLESS QUESTIONING...

WHY, I SEEM TO RECOLLECT SEEIN' TWO MEN O' THAT DESCRIPTION 'BOUT TWENTY MINUTES AGO--THEY WERE HEADIN' FER DOCK SEVENTEEN, WHAR THAT NEW CABIN-CRUISER PULLED IN COUPLE O' DAYS AGO! COUPLE O' BIG BRUGERS WERE HOLDIN' UP THE OLD GUY, AS IF HE WAS DRUNK OR SOMETHIN'...

THANKS, OLD-TIMER--YOU'VE DONE YOUR COUNTRY A GREAT SERVICE!

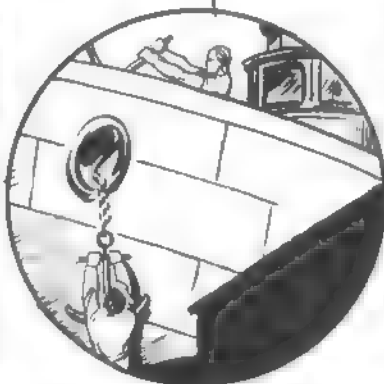


ALL THE MEN ARE ABOARD--WEIGH ANCHOR!

THAT'S LOCKWOOD--OR WHATEVER HIS NAME IS! NO TIME TO CALL THE NAVY OR THE POLICE--THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO!



ACH--THE ANCHOR WAS NEVER THIS HARD TO PULL UP!



AH, NOW IT'S EASIER--NOTHING IS TOO HARD FOR A GOOD NAZI!



WELL, HERE'S SOMETHING THAT'S TOO HARD FOR YOU!

AS THE BOAT STARTS OFF...

YES, MY DEAR PROFESSOR--I

AM NOT ONLY A HYPNOTIST, BUT ALSO ONE OF NAZI GERMANY'S TOP SCIENTISTS, WORKING ON THE PROBLEM OF ANTI-GRAVITY! JUST BEFORE THE WAR ENDED, HUNDREDS OF TRUSTED 'SS' MEN AND TECHNICIANS WERE SMUGGLED INTO SPAIN AND THEN ON TO A SECRET BASE IN THE JUNGLES OF HONDURAS-- WHERE WE ARE GOING NOW!





AND NOW THAT WE HAVE THE SECRET OF YOUR ANTI-GRAVITY DEVICE, WE WILL TAKE REVENGE ON THE UNITED STATES FOR THE DEFEAT OF THE NAZI REICH!

NO, YOU WON'T! REACH--ALL OF YOU!



THE FOOL--HE'S DRIPPING WET--AND SO IS HIS GUN! IT WON'T FIRE--BUT MINE WILL!

YOU'RE ALL WET, RAT--BECAUSE IT TAKES MORE THAN A DUNKING TO KEEP AMERICAN GUNS FROM FIRING!



GET WHAT I MEAN?

OHMM



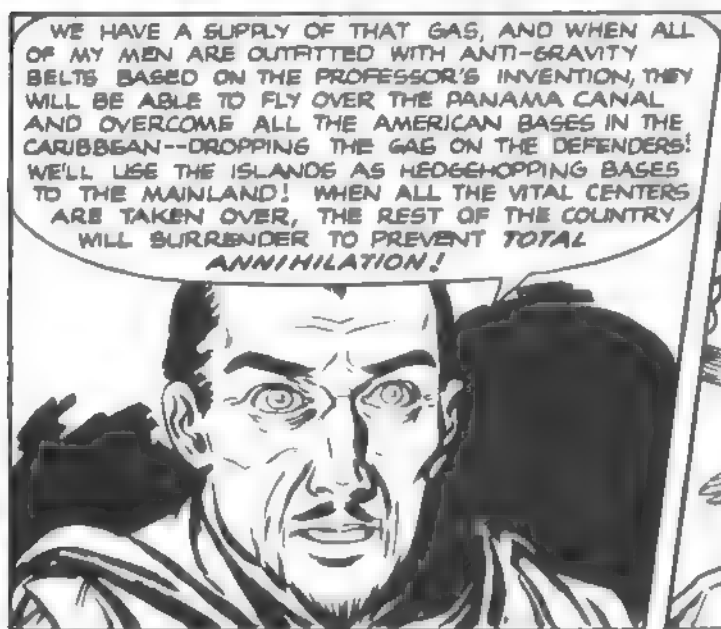
BUT BEFORE LOU GAINES CAN FIRE AGAIN...

OHMM!

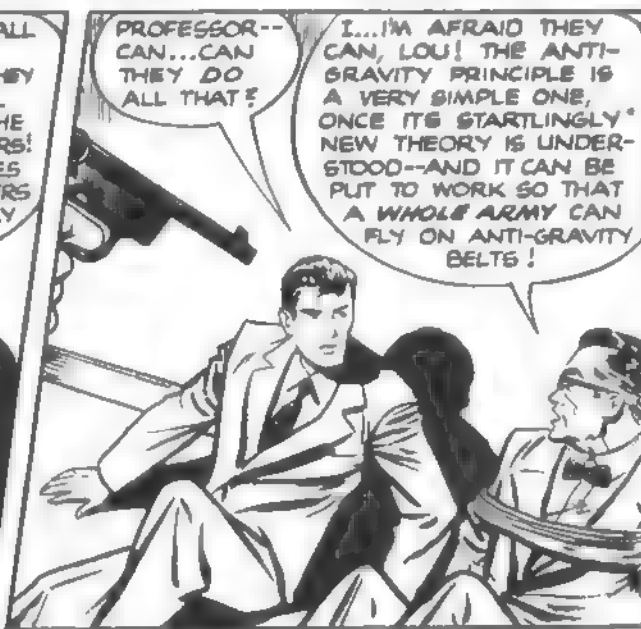
POK!



YOU WERE AN IDIOT TO THINK YOU COULD MATCH WITS OR STRENGTH WITH US--THE ELITE OF THE NAZI CORPS! AND YOUR WHOLE COUNTRY WILL FALL INTO OUR HANDS AS EASILY AS YOU AND THE PROFESSOR DID--WHEN WE START DROPPING THE NEW NERVE GAS WHICH WE DISCOVERED JUST BEFORE THE WAR'S END! WE TRIED IT ON YOU--AND ONE GRAM OF ACETYLCHOLINE CAN KNOCK OUT A REGIMENT!

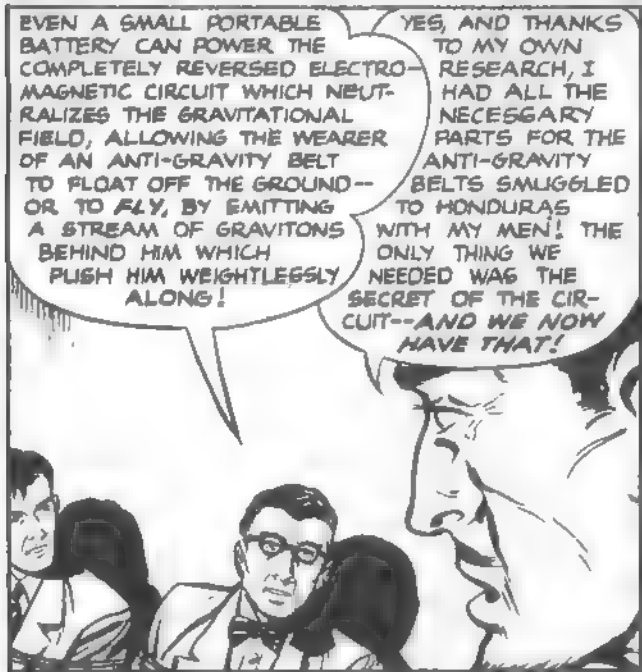


WE HAVE A SUPPLY OF THAT GAS, AND WHEN ALL OF MY MEN ARE OUTFITTED WITH ANTI-GRAVITY BELTS BASED ON THE PROFESSOR'S INVENTION, THEY WILL BE ABLE TO FLY OVER THE PANAMA CANAL AND OVERCOME ALL THE AMERICAN BASES IN THE CARIBBEAN--DROPPING THE GAS ON THE DEFENDERS! WE'LL USE THE ISLANDS AS HEDGEHOPPING BASES TO THE MAINLAND! WHEN ALL THE VITAL CENTERS ARE TAKEN OVER, THE REST OF THE COUNTRY WILL SURRENDER TO PREVENT TOTAL ANNIHILATION!



PROFESSOR--CAN...CAN THEY DO ALL THAT?

I...I'M AFRAID THEY CAN, LOU! THE ANTI-GRAVITY PRINCIPLE IS A VERY SIMPLE ONE, ONCE ITS STARTLINGLY NEW THEORY IS UNDERSTOOD--AND IT CAN BE PUT TO WORK SO THAT A WHOLE ARMY CAN FLY ON ANTI-GRAVITY BELTS!



EVEN A SMALL PORTABLE BATTERY CAN POWER THE COMPLETELY REVERSED ELECTRO-MAGNETIC CIRCUIT WHICH NEUTRALIZES THE GRAVITATIONAL FIELD, ALLOWING THE WEARER OF AN ANTI-GRAVITY BELT TO FLOAT OFF THE GROUND--OR TO FLY, BY EMITTING A STREAM OF GRAVITONS BEHIND HIM WHICH PUSH HIM WEIGHTLESSLY ALONG!

YES, AND THANKS TO MY OWN RESEARCH, I HAD ALL THE NECESSARY PARTS FOR THE ANTI-GRAVITY BELTS SMUGGLED TO HONDURAS WITH MY MEN! THE ONLY THING WE NEEDED WAS THE SECRET OF THE CIRCUIT--AND WE NOW HAVE THAT!



WE WILL KEEP THE PROFESSOR ALIVE SO THAT I CAN HYPNOTIZE HIM FURTHER IN CASE WE RUN INTO ANY TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES --UNDER HYPNOSIS, HE WILL BE COMPELLED TO HELP US! BUT SINCE YOU ARE OF NO USE TO US --YOU DIE NOW!

GOT TO THINK FAST--ONLY ONE CHANCE--
YOU'LL DIE WHEN OUR RADAR-SCREEN NETWORK ON THE CARIBBEAN ISLANDS PICKS UP YOUR MEN, EVEN IF THEY FLY AT NIGHT! AND I HAPPEN TO KNOW THE NETWORK IS ALMOST FOOLPROOF--YOU'LL ALL BE BLASTED FROM THE SKIES!

ALMOST FOOLPROOF? THAT MEANS YOU KNOW THE HOLES IN THE RADAR NETWORK THROUGH WHICH WE CAN SLIP--YOU WILL BE MOST USEFUL! I WILL SPARE YOU TO HYPNOTIZE THE INFORMATION OUT OF YOU--AND YOU WILL COME WITH US ON OUR ATTACK, TO TELL US LATER WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT RADAR SCREENS ON THE MAINLAND!



WHEN THE NAZIS LEAVE...
IT WORKED-- BUT IF HE THINKS HE'S GOING TO MAKE ME SPILL ANY SECRETS ABOUT THE RADAR DEFENSES, HE'S PLUMB LOONY!

DON'T BE SO SURE ABOUT IT--A HYPNOTIZED SUBJECT CAN BE COMPELLED TO ANSWER ANY QUESTION TRUTHFULLY! THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FOIL THEIR PLOT--AND IF YOU'RE WILLING TO DIE FOR YOUR COUNTRY, LOU, HERE'S WHAT YOU'VE GOT TO DO...



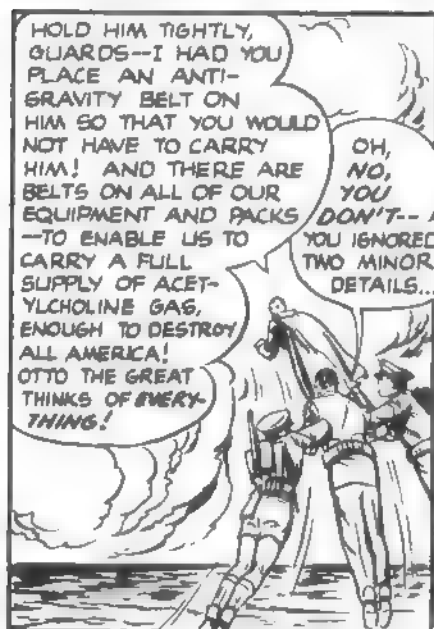
DAYS LATER, IN A SECLUDED COVE IN HONDURAS...
GREAT GUNS--THEY'VE GOT A SMALL ARMY HIDDEN HERE!

SIEG HEIL!



NOW WE ARE READY FOR THE DETAILS OF THE RADAR SCREEN! GAZE DEEPLY... DEEPLY INTO MY EYES! YOU WILL OBEY ME--AND TELL ME ALL YOU KNOW ABOUT THE RADAR NETWORK!

CAN'T...LOOK AWAY--THOSE BURNING EYES --YES...I WILL OBEY YOU... I WILL TELL YOU ALL...





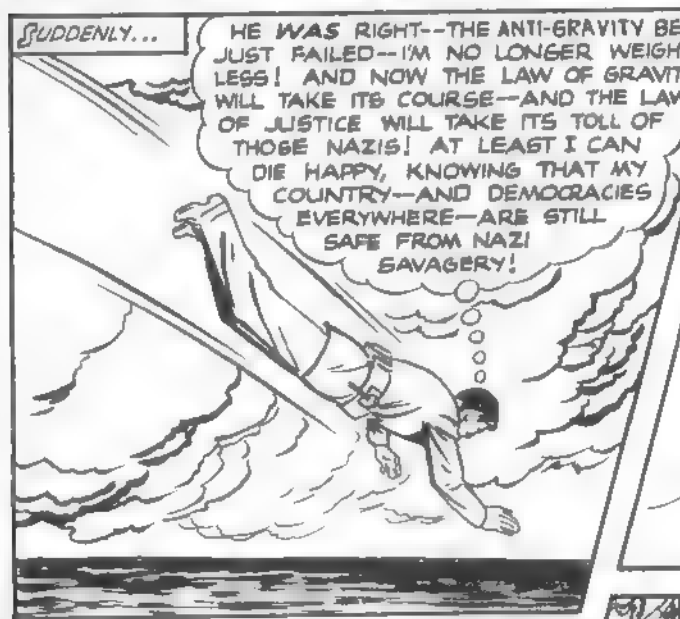
AND NOW, WHEN I PUT THE LEVER INTO **FULL-POWER POSITION**, YOU'LL **NEVER** CATCH UP TO ME!

THE PISTOL WON'T FIRE--THE HAMMER IS WEIGHTLESS AND CAN'T DETONATE THE CARTRIDGE! **EVERY-ONE AFTER HIM--ON FULL POWER!**



THE PLAN **WORKED**--I MADE THEM ALL TURN ON **FULL POWER!** AND NOW, IF ONLY THE PROFESSOR WAS RIGHT WHEN HE SAID THAT **ANTI-GRAVITY CIRCUITS** CAN EASILY BE STRAINED BEYOND THE **BREAKING POINT**--AND THAT THEY SHORT-CIRCUIT AFTER A FEW MINUTES AT HIGH POWER, DUE TO **EXCESSIVE HEAT!**

AFTER HIM--**FASTER!**



SUDDENLY...

HE WAS RIGHT--THE **ANTI-GRAVITY BELT** JUST FAILED--I'M NO LONGER **WEIGHTLESS!** AND NOW THE **LAW OF GRAVITY** WILL TAKE ITS COURSE--AND THE **LAW OF JUSTICE** WILL TAKE ITS TOLL OF THOSE **NAZIS!** AT LEAST I CAN DIE **HAPPY**, KNOWING THAT MY **COUNTRY--AND DEMOCRACIES EVERYWHERE--ARE STILL SAFE FROM NAZI SAVAGERY!**

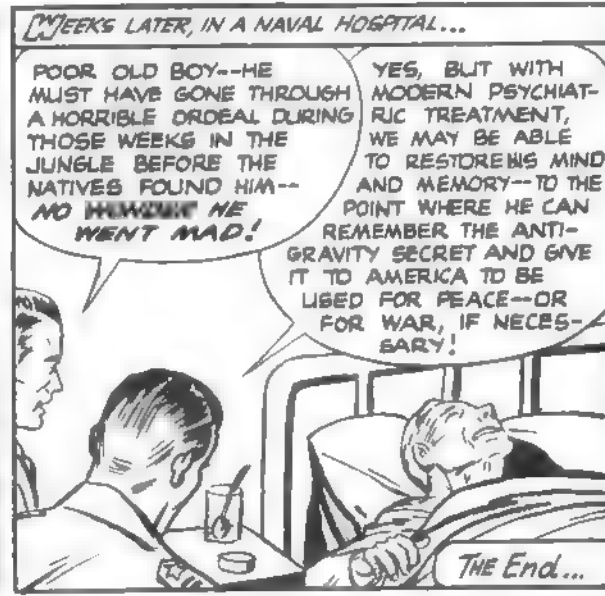


HE...HE FELL INTO THE **WATER** AS IF...**HIMMEL!** MY **WEIGHT--IT'S COME BACK--**THE **ANTI-GRAVITY BELT STOPPED WORKING!**

WE'LL ALL DIE! HELP!



SPLASH!



WEEKS LATER, IN A NAVAL HOSPITAL...

POOR OLD BOY--HE MUST HAVE GONE THROUGH A **HORRIBLE ORDEAL** DURING THOSE **WEEKS** IN THE **JUNGLE** BEFORE THE **NATIVES** FOUND HIM--**NO MENTION HE WENT MAD!**

YES, BUT WITH **MODERN PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT**, WE MAY BE ABLE TO **RESTORE HIS MIND AND MEMORY--**TO THE POINT WHERE HE CAN **REMEMBER THE ANTI-GRAVITY SECRET** AND GIVE IT TO **AMERICA** TO BE USED FOR **PEACE--OR FOR WAR, IF NECESSARY!**

THE End...

IN IRELAND, THEY SAY, THE "LITTLE FOLK" DANCE BY MOONLIGHT--AND THE BANSHEE'S WAIL SPREADS TERROR! SUPERSTITION? FOLKLORE? BEFORE YOU DECIDE, LISTEN TO THE HORRIFYING TALE OF CAPTAIN PHIL CARTER, AMERICAN PILOT-- AND LEARN THE STRANGE SECRET OF...

the DEVIL STOLE HER SOUL



I HAD FOUND MY LOVE--
DEEP IN THE HEART OF
QUAINT OLD ERIN--

OH, PHIL DARLIN'--SURE
AN' THE LITTLE FOLK
MUST BE LOOKIN'
KINDLY ON US--
BRINGIN' US
TOGETHER
LIKE THIS!



LITTLE FOLK! DON'T
TELL ME YOU BELIEVE
IN LEPRECHAUNS AND
ALL THAT SUPERSTITIOUS
IRISH NONSENSE!



I'LL TEACH YE TO BE MOCKIN' AT
ME! THIS IS THE MOST HAUNTED
SECTION OF IRELAND -- AND I NOT
ONLY BELIEVE IN LEPRECHAUNS
AND BANSHEES, BUT IN THE
DEVIL HIMSELF!

COREEN!
WAIT!



AS COREEN'S FIERY TEMPER FLARED--

I'LL NOT BE WAITIN'-- NOR HAVIN' ANYTHIN' TO DO WITH AN UNBELIEVIN' FOOL!



AND SO, BLINDED BY RAGE, COREEN GALLOPED HEAD-
LONG INTO THE HAUNTED FOREST-- HAVEN OF LOST
SOULS AND EVIL SPIRITS!



IT WAS SOMETHING INVISIBLE
TO COREEN THAT STARTLED
HER HORSE--

I'M--
FALLING---



MY-- ANKLE!
I'M-- HURT!



HELPLESS, HER HORSE GONE,
THERE WAS BUT ONE THING
TO DO--

I'LL-- HAVE TO SPEND
THE NIGHT IN THIS HORRIBLE
FOREST! THAT QUEER-LOOKIN'
PATCH O' WEEDS--
THEY LOOK SOFT---



SLEEP--TROUBLED SLEEP! THEN-- WAS IT A
NIGHTMARE, THIS AWFUL APPARITION THAT
STALKED HER TROUBLED MIND?

HE DOESN'T BELIEVE
YOU, COREEN! HE
DOUBTS THE
POWERS OF THE
UNKNOWN!



OR WAS IT-- GHASTLY REALITY?

WELL, HE'LL LEARN
THEM! THROUGH THE
FIRE OF YOUR TEMPER,
HE'LL KNOW THE FIRE
OF HADES! YOU ARE
MY EMISSARY
NOW, COREEN--
YOU!



NEXT MORNING, HALF-FRANTIC WITH WORRY, I LED A SEARCH PARTY TO THE HAUNTED FOREST, WHERE--

OH, PHIL! I KNEW YOU'D COME FOR ME!

COREEN--THANK HEAVEN YOU'RE SAFE!



DARLIN', IT'S BEEN A NIGHT OF TERROR! PLEASE TAKE ME AWAY FROM THIS EVIL PLACE-- FOREVER!

SURE, SWEET-HEART! WE'LL GET MARRIED RIGHT AWAY! AND THEN-- AMERICA!



WE LEFT THE HORROR BEHIND--THE GLOOMY FEARS WERE FORGOTTEN...OR SO I THOUGHT!

PHIL, I HAVE A STRANGE FEELIN' I'VE NOT LEFT IRELAND ENTIRELY--THAT I'VE BROUGHT ALONG A SINISTER PART OF IT-- AND I'M AFRAID!

NONSENSE, DARLING --THIS SEA AIR WILL BRING BACK YOUR GOOD SPIRITS!



THE VOYAGE WAS UNEVENTFUL -- UNTIL WE REACHED THE GOOD OLD U.S.A.--

HMM-- AND WHAT ARE...

A GIFT FROM ME MOTHER, AND IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!



I THINK WE OUGHT TO CHARGE YOU DUTY ON THEM--THEY'RE MIGHTY RARE!

OH! YOU-- THE DEVIL TAKE YE!



IT WAS JUST AN INNOCENT IRISH SAYING-- BUT WHAT HAPPENED THEN FROZE MY BLOOD!

WHAT THE---? HE'S VANISHED --INTO THIN AIR!

YAAGH!

OH-- NO!



BUT WHAT I DIDN'T SEE WAS EVEN MORE NERVE-SHATTERING!

HA! I'VE SELECTED A GOOD EMISSARY IN COREEN! HER QUICK TEMPER, PLUS THE UNEARTHLY POWER I'VE GIVEN HER, WILL GAIN ME MANY VICTIMS!



HOME AT LAST, I TRIED TO EASE COREEN'S MOUNTING TERROR--

BUT, SWEETHEART, IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT! THERE'S DOUBTLESS SOME LOGICAL SCIENTIFIC EXPLANATION FOR HIS DISAPPEARANCE-- SO STOP WORRYING!

I-- I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT...



ALL WENT WELL FOR AWHILE-- UNTIL THE DAY COREEN WENT SHOPPING FOR THE FIRST TIME--

NOW HERE'S A CHOICE CUT-- AND ONLY THREE DOLLARS!

HMPH! MAY YOUR STORE BE CONSUMED BY FIRE IF YE CHARGE PRICES LIKE THOSE!



AT ONCE-- TRAGEDY! AS IF STRUCK BY LIGHTNING, THE SHOP BURST INTO LEAPING TONGUES OF FLAME--

RUN-- WE'LL BE BURNED ALIVE!

I MUST HAVE CAUSED IT-- I MUST HAVE!

D-DID EVERYBODY ESCAPE?

NO-- SOME OF THEM WERE TRAPPED!



SHE DID IT! SHE CALLED DOWN A CURSE! "MAY YOUR STORE BE CONSUMED BY FIRE," SHE SAID-- AND THE NEXT MINUTE, IT HAPPENED! SHE'S A WITCH!

NO! I--



THE ANGRY MOB TOOK UP THE CRY-- AND COREEN FLED IN PANIC!

SEIZE THE WITCH!

KILL HER!

MUST GET HOME-- TO PHIL!



WHA---! COREEN!

PHIL! THEY'RE GOING TO-- KILL ME!



AS SHE SOBBED OUT HER FEARFUL STORY--

EASY, BABY--
LET'S GET OUT
OF HERE BEFORE
THAT MOB
BREAKS DOWN
THE DOOR!

I'M CURSED,
PHIL! EVERY
FATAL WISH OF
MINE COMES
TRUE -- AS
THOUGH THE
DEVIL WERE
LISTENING!

BAM!
BAM!



MAYBE WE CAN
ESCAPE THROUGH
THIS REAR
WINDOW!



JUST AS I THOUGHT WE WERE
SAFE, A GIANT OF A MAN RAN
AROUND THE CORNER OF
THE HOUSE--

HEY!
THEY'RE
GETTING
AWAY!

OH-OH!



MAD WITH MOB FRENZY, HE CAME AT ME WITH A
KNIFE! HE WAS WILLING TO KILL ME, TO GET AT
COREEN!

PHIL! I--
MUST DO
SOMETHING!



WHAT IF I REALLY HAVE SUPERNATURAL
POWERS? I'VE GOT TO TRY IT -- OR PHIL
WILL DIE!



AND THEN COREEN PROVED HER LOVE FOR ME--
DIABOLICALLY!

CAN'T HOLD
HIM-- ANY
LONGER---

MAY THE IMPS
OF SATAN
DESTROY
YOU!



EVEN AS RELIEF FLOODED OVER ME-- IT
WAS BLOTTED OUT BY HORROR!

ARGHH!

THANK YOU, COREEN--
I AM VERY SATISFIED
WITH YOUR WORK!



WE GOT AWAY FROM THERE FAST-- AS MY NUMBED
BRAIN AND MUSCLES RESPONDED TO STARK FEAR!

HURRY!
I'VE SEEN
ENOUGH! I---

BUT, PHIL-- I'M A--**FREAK!**
WHAT ARE WE GOIN'
TO DO?

HOW CAN
YOU STILL
LOVE ME?

I'D LOVE YOU IF YOU
HAD **HORNS**, DARLING!

I WAS NORMAL AGAIN--AND AS I
JOKED, I REMEMBERED THE ONE
SOURCE OF HELP OPEN TO US --

BUT--
WHY
ARE
WE
HERE?

IN COLLEGE, I STUDIED
UNDER DR. WARNOW--
HE'S MADE A LIFE
STUDY OF OCCULT SCIENCE!
HE'S OUR ONLY
HOPE!

WHEN THE TRAGIC TALE WAS TOLD--

HMM! THE WHOLE THING SEEMS
TO DATE BACK TO THE TIME
WHEN YOU HURT YOUR ANKLE
IN THE HAUNTED FOREST--
AND HAD TO SLEEP
THERE OVER-
NIGHT!

I THINK
YOU'RE
RIGHT,
DOCTOR!

FROM YOUR DESCRIPTION, I'D
SAY YOU SLEPT IN A PATCH
OF **MANDRAKE** THAT NIGHT!
YOUR "DREAM" OF THE DEVIL
WAS NO DREAM AT ALL,
BUT **STARK REALITY!**

WHY DO
YOU SAY
THAT?

OCCULT SCIENCE TELLS US THAT HE
WHO SLEEPS IN A BED OF MANDRAKE
--THAT DREAD HERB FROM WHICH
SPIRITS DERIVE MUCH OF THEIR
POWER-- BECOMES AN
EMISSARY OF SATAN!

BUT, DOC--THERE
MUST BE **SOME**
WAY OUT! I
WON'T LET--

I HAVE A PLAN THAT
MAY WORK! BUT IF
IT **DOESN'T**, IT WILL
MEAN COREEN'S
DEATH-- AND
YOURS!

THE PLAN SOUNDED RIDICULOUS,
FAR-FETCHED! BUT I KNEW
BETTER THAN TO LAUGH--

REMEMBER--THE
FIENDS OF THE
SPIRIT WORLD
WON'T GIVE UP
COREEN WITHOUT
A STRUGGLE!
**BE PRE-
PARED FOR
ANYTHING!**

NO MATTER
WHAT HAPPENS,
DOC--THEY'LL
KNOW THEY'VE
BEEN IN A
FIGHT!

SO OVER THE OCEAN WE WINGED--
ARMED ONLY WITH A FLIMSY
PLAN-- AND **HOPE!**

ARE YOU SURE
YOU CAN REMEM-
BER THE EXACT
SPOT WHERE
YOU SLEPT
THAT
NIGHT?

YES--IT
WAS
UNDER A
HEMLOCK
TREE--THE
ONLY ONE
AROUND!

AND AS WE SPEED OVER THE
IRISH COUNTRYSIDE, DAYS
LATER--

DR. WARNOW SAID
WE MUST ACT ON THE NIGHT
OF THE FIRST FULL MOON
AFTER IT HAPPENED--
AND THAT'S TONIGHT!



SURE ENOUGH, COREEN HAD NO TROUBLE FIND-
ING THE EERIE PLACE WE SOUGHT--

THERE, PHIL--
IT'S THE PATCH
OF MANDRAKE!

I HOPE MY WORDS GET THROUGH
TO THE SPIRIT WORLD!

GOOD! I'LL SPRINKLE THIS
GASOLINE OVER THE
MANDRAKE-- THEN SET
FIRE TO IT!



THEN CAME THE MOST IMPORTANT PART
OF THE RITUAL--

TO LIFT THE CURSE OF
MANDRAKE ROOT,
SEAR AND BURN
TILL IT BE SOOT!

BY ITS ASHES SATAN
QUELL,
AND BREAK HIS EVIL
MAGIC SPELL!



A HUSHED SILENCE--AND THEN, AN EAR-
SPLITTING CRASH! IT WAS THE DEVIL AND
HIS LEGION!

HA! YOU SOUGHT TO BURN
THE MANDRAKE, EH? KNOWING IT WOULD
FREE YOUR WIFE FROM MY SPELL!



FOR YOUR RASHNESS, YOU SHALL DIE
--AND COREEN WILL CONTINUE
HER EXISTENCE AS MY EMISSARY!
TAKE HIM AWAY!

OH--
NO!



AS A WARTIME PILOT, I'D LEARNED TO THINK FAST! NOW THE TRAINING STOOD ME IN GOOD STEAD--

WAIT! THE ENTIRE VILLAGE KNOWS OF THIS -- AND EVEN NOW, THEY COME TO BURN THE WHOLE MOOR-- IN CASE THERE'S MORE MANDRAKE AROUND!

MORDO! GARTH! GO SEE IF HE SPEAKS THE TRUTH!



SURE, I WAS STALLING FOR TIME -- AND WHEN THE IMPS RETURNED --

HE LIES! NO ONE COMES!

SO -- HIS TORTURES WILL THUS BE TWOFOLD! NOW COME -- WE WASTE TOO MUCH TIME!



BUT AT THAT MOMENT-- A CRY FROM ONE OF THE IMPS--

HUH?

LOOK! THE MANDRAKE-- IT BURNS! THE MORTAL HAS SET FIRE TO IT-- MAGICALLY!



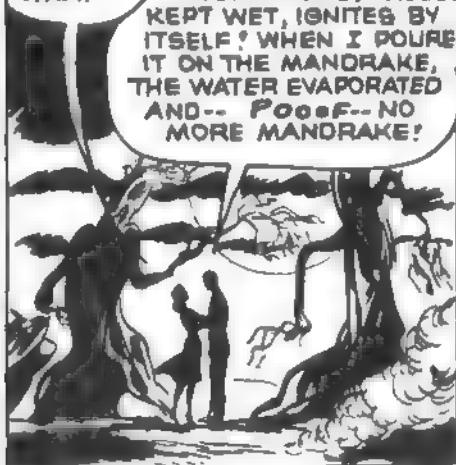
WELL, THAT'S ABOUT ALL-- EXCEPT FOR ONE LAST ITEM--

BUT, DARLING-- DR. WARNOW SAID TO BURN THE MANDRAKE WITH GASOLINE-- AND I THOUGHT THAT'S WHAT...

HE ALSO SAID TO BE PREPARED FOR ANYTHING! THE DEVIL MIGHT HAVE PREVENTED MY LIGHTING THE GASOLINE-- THAT'S WHY I HAD WATER AND PHOSPHOROUS IN THAT CAN! PHOSPHOROUS, UNLESS KEPT WET, IGNITES BY ITSELF! WHEN I POURED IT ON THE MANDRAKE, THE WATER EVAPORATED AND-- POOF-- NO MORE MANDRAKE!

I-- ER-- FORGOT TO TELL YOU, DARLING-- YOU MARRIED A GENIUS!

OH, THE DEVIL TAKE YE... OHHH!



AND AS THE PATCH OF MANDRAKE BLAZES INTO ASHES--

AS THE GREATEST TRICKSTER OF ALL, I CAN APPRECIATE ONE WHO OUTWITS ME! TAKE YOUR WIFE-- SHE IS FREE OF THE CURSE-- AND THE SOULS SHE SENT TO ME SHALL BE RETURNED UNHARMED! FAREWELL!

IT MAY SOUND FUNNY-- BUT THANKS!



IT'S OKAY, SWEETHEART, EVEN THE DEVIL CAN'T TAKE ME-- FROM YOU!



THE END

The HOWLING HEAD



THE DEAD THEMSELVES SHUDDERED AT HIS LONG-DRAWN MIDNIGHT CRY...THE SUMMONS OF A FANGED CREATURE THAT WAS NEITHER BEAST NOR HUMAN...BUT A STALKING HORROR WHOSE WEREWOLF WAYS FOUND TONGUE IN **THE HOWLING HEAD!**

LATE ONE BLOOMY AFTERNOON...



I'LL SAY **THIS** MUCH ABOUT THE ROAD TO SUNSET GLEN, CYNTHIA...WE HAVEN'T BEEN HELD UP BY TRAFFIC!

CAN'T YOU GUESS **WHY?** PEOPLE ARE **AFRAID** TO COME HERE...AND WHAT'S MORE, SO AM I!

LOOK, HONEY...IT'S TRUE THE PAPERS HAVE PLAYED UP THE LURID FACT THAT THE BODIES OF THE LAST TWELVE PEOPLE TO DIE IN SUNSET GLEN DISAPPEARED BEFORE BURIAL! BUT I BELIEVE IT'S A CONTAGIOUS DISEASE THAT CAUSES A FORM OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION FOLLOWED BY AMNESIA...AND THAT THESE SUPPOSEDLY DEAD PEOPLE MERELY RECOVERED LONG ENOUGH TO WANDER OFF!



TOM--BE TRUTHFUL! YOU'VE BEEN A DOCTOR FOR TWO YEARS--HAVE **YOU** EVER HEARD OF ANY SUCH DISEASE?

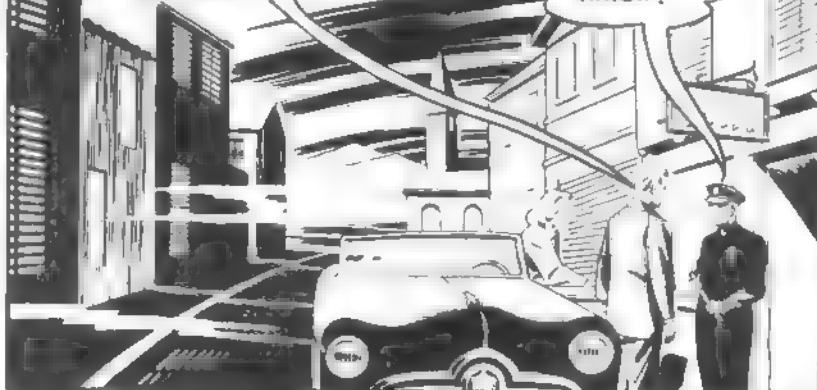
NO---AND **THAT'S** WHY IT'S MY DUTY AS A DOCTOR TO LOOK INTO IT! BABY, I'VE EXAMINED MANY A CORPSE DURING MY MED CAL TRAINING, AND YOU CAN TAKE MY WORD FOR IT---**THEY DON'T WALK!**



SOON AFTERWARD---IN SUNSET GLEN---

CAN'T SAY I'VE EVER BEEN IN A PLACE LIKE **THIS**--THE SHUTTERS ALL DRAWN---AND NOT A SINGLE PERSON STIRRING OUTDOORS!

CAN YOU BLAME THEM? THERE'S **FEAR** HERE---THE FEAR OF LEAVING THE SICK AND THE OLD BY THEMSELVES---JUST AS IF THE TOWN'S BEEN GOING THROUGH ONE ENDLESS DEATH WATCH!



WELL, DOC---HERE'S THE KEY TO **LUPUS HALL!** WISH WE COULD PUT YOU UP IN MORE CHEERFUL SURROUNDINGS--BECAUSE THE PLACE HASN'T BEEN OCCUPIED SINCE ITS LAST OWNER DIED EXACTLY A HUNDRED YEARS AGO!

HOW COME? DID **HIS** BODY DISAPPEAR, TOO?

NOPE---JUST HIS **HEAD!** MAYBE IT'S JUST A LOT OF FIRE-SIDE TALK---BUT FOLKS ALWAYS SAID THAT LUPUS HAD BEEN TORN APART BY A **MONSTER WOLF!**



Then...WHILE SKIMMING BATS BRUSH THE DEEPENING GREY OF EVENING---

MONSTER WOLF! HONEY---THIS PLACE IS **CRAWLING** WITH SUPERSTITION!

YES---AND IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE YOUR **FLESH CRAWL!** THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE **SEEN** THESE THINGS DON'T TALK ABOUT SUPERSTITION, TOM--AND I WONDER WHETHER **WE** WILL---AFTER TONIGHT!



CYNTHIA, THERE'S NO USE DWELLING ON NAMELESS HORRORS! TRY TO GET THEM OUT OF YOUR MIND---AND THINK OF HAPPIER THINGS!

DO YOU THINK **THAT'S** SO HARD TO DO, DARLING--WHEN WE'RE GOING TO BE MARRIED NEXT WEEK?



A MOMENT LATER---

JUST STAND STILL A SECOND, HONEY---AND I'LL GET THE CANDLES LIT SO WE CAN LOOK THINGS OVER!

AND TOM---**HURRY!** I DON'T WANT TO SOUND SCARED AGAIN---BUT I'VE GOT THE FUNNIEST FEELING THAT SOMETHING'S LOOKING OVER **ME!**



AS THE FIRST SCARLET SHAFTS CLAW THE DARKNESS...



OH-H!

CYNTHIA...THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF! IT'S JUST A MOTH-EATEN OLD TROPHY...CAN'T YOU SEE THAT?

BUT IT *ISN'T* MOTH-EATEN, TOM! THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT IT THAT LOOKS LIKE A REAL WOLF...SOME-THING THAT'S ALMOST ALIVE!



A HALF-HOUR LATER...

NO LUCK, HONEY! I'VE BEEN TRYING TO FIND SOME CONNECTION BETWEEN SUSPENDED ANIMATION AND AMNESIA IN THESE MEDICAL RECORDS!

THAT ISN'T THE CONNECTION I'M LOOKING FOR! DON'T YOU THINK IT'S STRANGE TO FIND A WOLF HEAD *HERE*...IN THE HOME OF A MAN WHO WAS *KILLED* BY A WOLF EXACTLY A CENTURY AGO?



YES...IT'S *VERY* STRANGE...DID YOU JUST LIGHT SOME EXTRA CANDLES, TOM?



THERE *AREN'T* ANY! WHY'D YOU ASK?

I THOUGHT IT WAS A REFLECTION...*BUT IT'S THE EYES!* WATCH THEM...THEY'RE GROWING BRIGHTER AND BRIGHTER!



IT'S NOTHING...JUST AN OPTICAL ILLUSION! THEY'RE GLASS EYES IN A STUFFED HEAD...AND THEY WOULDN'T GLEAM WITHOUT A REASON!

BUT MAYBE THERE *IS* A REASON! IT'S JUST AS IF THOSE EYES ARE WATCHING FOR SOMETHING...AND SHINING MORE AND MORE AS IT *DRAW*S CLOSER!



I HOPE YOU'RE NOT GETTING ANY IDEAS ABOUT OLD LUPUS! HE WAS JUST A COUNTRY SQUIRE WITH ORDINARY INTERESTS LIKE HUNTING...AND THAT TROPHY PROVES IT!

YES...A *HEAD!* THERE AREN'T ANY *OTHER* TROPHIES, TOM...JUST THE HEAD OF A WOLF...IN THE HOUSE OF A MAN WHO LOST HIS *OWN!*



A HALF-HOUR LATER...

THERE'S SOMETHING HERE
...I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING BUT
DARKNESS... BUT IT'S DARK-
NESS THAT **MOVES**... AS IF
IT'S TAKING SHAPE!

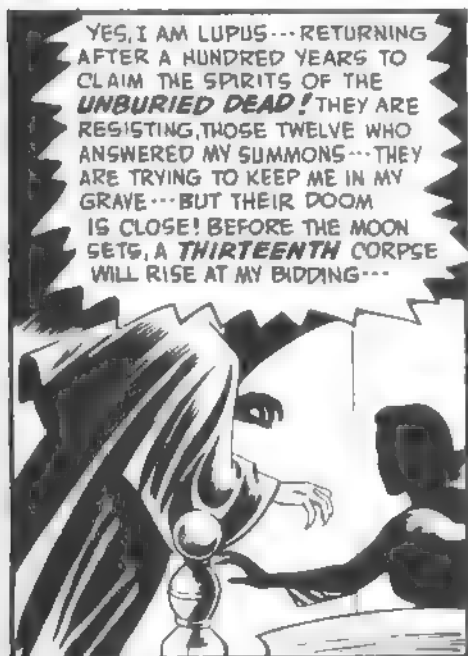


RELUCTANTLY...THE QUIVERING CANDLE FLAME PICKS
OUT A LOOMING FORM!

OH, GOOD HEAVENS...
LUPUS! A THING WITHOUT
LIFE...AND WITHOUT
A HEAD!



YES, I AM LUPUS...RETURNING
AFTER A HUNDRED YEARS TO
CLAIM THE SPIRITS OF THE
UNBURIED DEAD! THEY ARE
RESISTING, THOSE TWELVE WHO
ANSWERED MY SUMMONS...THEY
ARE TRYING TO KEEP ME IN MY
GRAVE...BUT THEIR DOOM
IS CLOSE! BEFORE THE MOON
SETS, A **THIRTEENTH** CORPSE
WILL RISE AT MY BIDDING...



...AND **THEN** THEY WILL
BECOME **WEREWOLVES**
FOREVER!



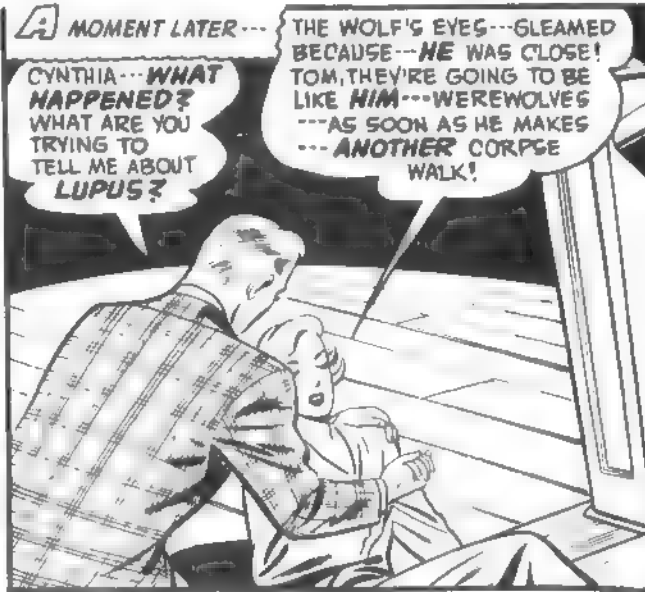
THAT BLACK THING...
HE'S AFTER ME!
...OH! I
TRIPPED...



A MOMENT LATER...

CYNTHIA...**WHAT**
HAPPENED?
WHAT ARE YOU
TRYING TO
TELL ME ABOUT
LUPUS?

THE WOLF'S EYES...GLEAMED
BECAUSE--**HE** WAS CLOSE!
TOM, THEY'RE GOING TO BE
LIKE **HIM**...WEREWOLVES
...AS SOON AS HE MAKES
...ANOTHER CORPSE
WALK!





LUPUS NEEDS ONE MORE...THE **THIRTEENTH**...AND

IT'S GOING...TO BE **ME!**

CYNTHIA! YE GODS...A SEVERE SHOCK LIKE THIS **CAN** FINISH HER OFF! I'VE GOT TO GET HELP...SOMEONE TO WATCH HER...WHILE I'M PREPARING A PLASMA SOLUTION!



I'M GETTING A BREAK! I DON'T KNOW WHAT PEOPLE WOULD BE DOING IN THE DARK AT **THIS** HOUR...BUT THERE'S A SMALL GROUP OF THEM OUTSIDE!



I'M A DOCTOR...AND I NEED HELP FAST! THERE'S A GIRL DYING INSIDE!



WITH ITS GHOSTLY FEATURES SHROUDED BY THE MIDNIGHT MIST...

NO ONE MUST DIE **HERE!** TAKE HER AWAY...**TAKE HER AWAY!**

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I PLAN TO DO! THE PLACE HAS MADE HER A NERVOUS WRECK...IT'S GOT HER TERRIFIED BY WOLF'S EYES AND A HEADLESS MONSTER!



LUPUS!

WE GOT HERE TOO LATE...HE'S ESCAPED!



IN THE NEXT INSTANT...AS A WEIRD FLASH BRIGHTENS THE MURKY MOONLIGHT...

GOOD LORD...THEY'RE GONE!



IT **COULDN'T** HAVE HAPPENED---MY IMAGINATION'S BEEN TAXED BY OVER-EXCITEMENT!



DID I HEAR YOU SAY THAT YOU NEED SOMEONE... THAT THERE'S A GIRL DYING INSIDE?

RIGHT---AND FOR THE LOVE OF PETE. LET'S NOT WASTE TIME!



I HOPE IT ISN'T TOO LATE---BUT THANK HEAVEN I'VE FOUND SOMEONE WHO ISN'T AFRAID OF A **HEADLESS GHOST**!



I KNEW---HE WAS COMING! THEY'RE ONE AND THE SAME---**THE WOLF...AND LUPUS!**

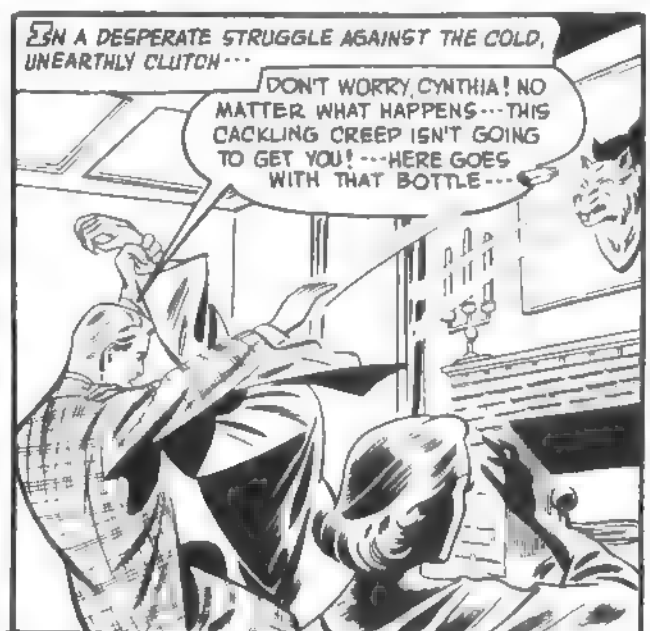
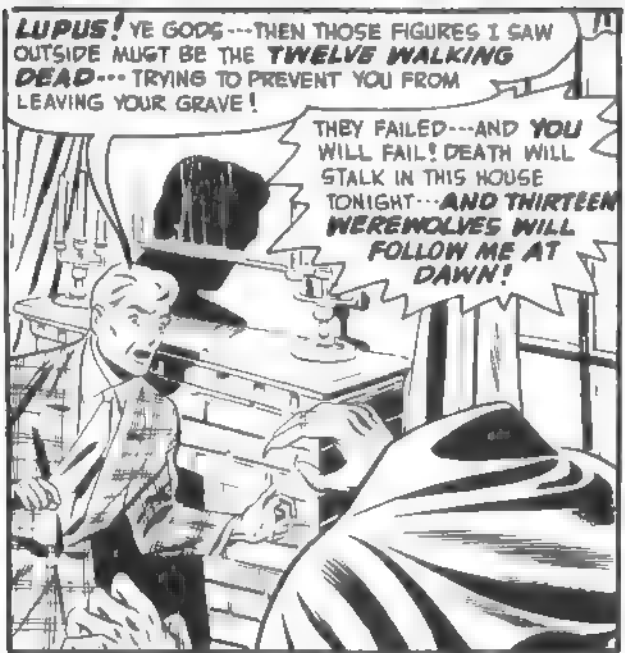
YOU'D BETTER WATCH HER FOR A MOMENT! SHE'S GOT HER EYES FIXED ON THAT WOLF HEAD---AND IT MAY SEND HER INTO A FATAL DELIRIUM UNLESS I HEAVE IT OUT THE WINDOW!



Then... CYNTHIA WAS RIGHT---THE EYES ARE GLEAMING! AND YE GODS---SUPPOSE SHE'S RIGHT ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS---**THAT THE WEREWOLF'S CLOSE?**



GULP!



AND WHO'S TO LEAD US...**YOU?** LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOUR GLINTING EYES AND POINTED FANGS...WHILE THE **ACID** I THREW SEARS THROUGH THEM!

AAAAGH... MY HEAD! IT'S DISAPPEARING... BIT BY BIT!



HAVEN'T YOU NOTICED YOUR **STRENGTH** FADING TOO...SECOND BY SECOND? THE THIRTEENTH CORPSE WILL BE **YOURS**, LUPUS...AND YOUR RETURN TO DEATH WILL FREE THE SOULS YOU CLAIMED!



AN INSTANT LATER...

YAAAGH!



CYNTHIA! EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT, HONEY...YOU'VE GOT TO REMAIN QUIET!

I PROMISE I WILL, TOM! BUT THE NIGHT SEEMS SO PEACEFUL NOW THAT I WANT JUST ONE LOOK AT THE MOONLIGHT...TO SHOW MYSELF THAT THERE'S NO LONGER ANY NEED TO BE AFRAID!



TOM...LOOK! DON'T YOU SEE THEM **NOW?**



TWELVE OF THEM...THE DEAD THAT LUPUS TRIED TO CHANGE INTO HOWLING FIENDS!

THAT WILL NEVER HAPPEN, HONEY...BECAUSE HE'S LOST HIS HOWLING HEAD! THOSE THINGS DOWN THERE ARE THE HARMLESS SPIRITS RE-LEAGED WHEN LUPUS DIED FOR GOOD...AND THEIR **BODIES** ARE BACK WHERE THEY SHOULD BE...READY FOR THE EARTH!



THE END!

The NOOSE of PEARLS



OUT OF THE DEAD, THE FORGOTTEN PAST, THE HORROR CAME-- ITS EYES GLOWING WITH AN UNHOLY LIGHT! OUT OF THE PAST AND INTO THE PRESENT, SEARCHING, THIRSTING FOR TREASURES IT ONCE POSSESSED-- AND GARROTING ALL WHO STOOD IN ITS WAY WITH THE NOOSE OF PEARLS!

LIBBY CAREY'S RISE TO FAME HAD BEEN SWIFT AND DRAMATIC--

GOSH, LIBBY, EVERYWHERE I TURN, I SEE AN AD WITH YOU ON IT! IT SORTA SCARES ME, BEING ENGAGED TO THE COUNTRY'S TOP MODEL!

SILLY! AS IF ANYTHING COULD CHANGE MY FEELINGS FOR THE COUNTRY'S TOP REPORTER!

I'M JUST GRATEFUL THAT AT LAST I'VE GOT ENOUGH MONEY SO I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY! AND THE FIRST THING I'M GOING TO DO, NED, IS GET MOM'S AND DAD'S THINGS OUT OF STORAGE! THEY'VE BEEN THERE FOR YEARS-- EVER SINCE THEY DIED!

LIBBY WAS AS GOOD AS HER WORD--

ALL THIS OLD STUFF! HERE ARE THE PORTRAITS OF MY GREAT UNCLE ZEB AND GREAT AUNT SOPHIE! LOOK AT THE FANCY MOTHER OF PEARL FRAMES!





WINDOWS ARE DARK-- SHE MUST HAVE TURNED IN! I'LL SKIP IT-- NO SENSE DISTURBING HER!... HEY! THAT LOOKS LIKE LIBBY GETTING INTO THAT CAB!



FUNNY! I WONDER WHERE SHE'S GOING? YOU'D THINK SHE WOULD'VE SAID SOMETHING... WHY, SHE TOLD ME SHE WAS GOING STRAIGHT TO BED! I THINK I'LL TRAIL ALONG!



BEYOND CITY LIMITS--

GOOD GRIEF! WHAT'S SHE GETTING OUT HERE FOR?

CITY LIMITS
RESUME SPEED



WHY IN THUNDER WOULD LIBBY BE GOING INTO GREGORY MALT'S ESTATE AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT-- OR ANYTIME, FOR THAT MATTER?



BAFFLED AND WORRIED, NED RETURNED TO THE NEWSPAPER OFFICE! THEN, AT 4 A.M.,--

GET GOING FAST, NED! IT'S HAPPENED AGAIN! GREGORY MALT'S JUST BEEN ROBBED OF HIS NAPOLEON PEARLS!

GREGORY MALT!



THE FOLLOWING MORNING--

BUT, LIBBY, I SAW YOU LEAVE THE APARTMENT AND GET INTO A TAXI! ALL I WANT TO FIND OUT IS WHERE YOU WENT! IT'S VERY IMPORTANT!

I TOLD YOU I WENT STRAIGHT TO BED THE MINUTE YOU LEFT HERE! YOU MUST HAVE SEEN SOME- BODY ELSE! I DON'T LIKE YOUR ATTITUDE ONE LITTLE BIT! YOU CAN LEAVE ANY TIME-- AND TAKE YOUR RING WITH YOU!



THAT NIGHT, AFTER LIBBY HAD CRIED HERSELF TO SLEEP--

GET ME MORE PEARLS! STILL MORE PEARLS!

NEXT MORNING--

GOODNESS, IT'S ELEVEN O'CLOCK! I'VE NEVER OVERSLEPT LIKE THIS BEFORE! I'LL HAVE TO HURRY TO KEEP MY LUNCHEON DATE WITH NED... FUNNY! I HAVE THE ODDEST FEELING THAT I HAD A STRING OF PEARLS IN MY HAND! THE TAG END OF A DREAM, I GUESS!

HERE I AM, THE BOSS GOT ME UP AT FIVE O'CLOCK TO COVER A JEWELRY STORE ROBBERY! YOU SEE THE STORY?

I AM! THE BOSS GOT ME UP AT FIVE O'CLOCK TO COVER A JEWELRY STORE ROBBERY! YOU SEE THE STORY?

HOW DREADFUL! WAS THE WATCH-MAN KILLED, NED?

FORTUNATELY NOT! HE REPORTED HEARING A NOISE AND GOING TO INVESTIGATE! SUDDENLY HE WAS ATTACKED FROM THE REAR! A ROPE WAS PUT AROUND HIS NECK AND HE WAS STRANGLING INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS! WHEN THE POLICE FOUND HIM, HIS NECK STILL RETAINED A SERIES OF ROUND BRUISES! THEY ARE OF THE OPINION THAT HE WAS CHOKED BY A STRING OF PEARLS!



IN THE NEXT TEN DAYS, THE CITY WAS HIT BY AN EPIDEMIC OF ROBBERIES! AND IN EACH CASE, ONLY VALUABLE PEARLS WERE STOLEN!



WONDERFUL HAVING AN EVENING WITH YOU, DARLING-- IT'S BEEN SO LONG! YOUR BOSS SHOULDN'T WORK YOU SO HARD!

YOU SHOULD SPEAK TO THE PEARL THIEF-- THE ONE WHO'S KEEPING ME BUSY! HE'S SURE GOT EVERYBODY RUNNING IN CIRCLES!



AND NOW I'VE GOT TO BEAT IT TO THE OFFICE!

I'M GOING STRAIGHT TO BED! IT'S ALMOST AS IF I'M NOT GETTING ENOUGH SLEEP-- BUT THAT'S RIDICULOUS!



SAY, I'D BETTER GET BACK TO LIBBY'S-- I LEFT MY HAT! AND MY PRESS CARD'S IN IT!

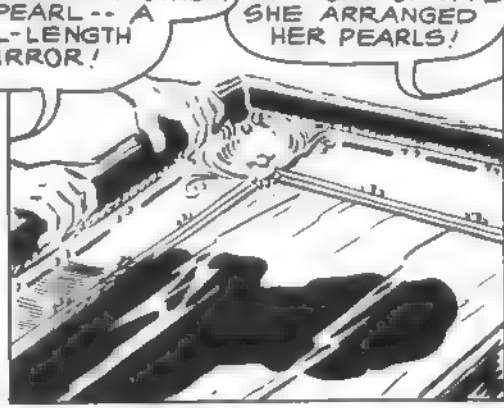


AND LOOK AT THE PEARLS SHE'S WEARING! IF THEY WERE REAL, THEY MUST HAVE BEEN WORTH A FORTUNE!

THEY'RE REAL, ALL RIGHT! AUNT SOPHIE WAS ALMOST NUTS ON PEARLS-- SHE COULDN'T GET ENOUGH! UNCLE ZEB KEPT BRINGING HER MORE AND MORE! HE WAS A SEA CAPTAIN AND PEARL TRADER IN THE SOUTH SEAS!

WELL, THERE'S NO ACCOUNTING FOR TASTES! ME, I'D RATHER HAVE GOOD HARD CASH!... HOLY SMOKE! HERE'S SOMETHING ELSE FRAMED IN MOTHER OF PEARL-- A FULL-LENGTH MIRROR!

IT USED TO BE AUNT SOPHIE'S! I REMEMBER MOTHER TELLING ME HOW SHE WATCHED AUNT SOPHIE STANDING IN FRONT OF IT AS SHE ARRANGED HER PEARLS!



WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KEEP A PIECE OF JUNK LIKE THAT FOR? WHY DON'T YOU GET RID OF IT?

OH, NO! IT FASCINATES ME!

LONG AFTER NED DEPARTED, LIBBY CONTINUED TO STAND IN FRONT OF THE OLD MIRROR--

FOR A MOMENT, IT ALMOST SEEMED THAT I COULD SEE AUNT SOPHIE'S REFLECTION! MY IMAGINATION IS WORKING OVERTIME-- I'D BETTER GET SOME SLEEP!

IMAGINATION, LIBBY! IF YOUR SLEEP-LOCKED EYES COULD ONLY SEE NOW--

MORE PEARLS! I ALWAYS WANTED MORE PEARLS-- AND NOW YOU ARE GOING TO GET THEM FOR ME!



IT WAS A HYPNOTIC SPELL THE STRANGE SPECTER CAST-- AND THE SLEEPING GIRL OBEYED!

MORE PEARLS! GET ME MORE PEARLS!

SHE RETURNED WITHIN AN HOUR WITH--

ANOTHER STRING... AH! AND BEAUTIES, TOO!



MEANWHILE, FROM A VANTAGE POINT ACROSS THE STREET, NED WATCHED LIBBY'S HOUSE--



SHE SEEMED TO BE TELLING THE TRUTH WHEN SHE DENIED GOING OUT! MAYBE I'M NUTS PACKING A GUN... BUT THERE'S SOMETHING SCREWY SOMEWHERE, AND I MEAN TO FIND OUT WHAT!

THE SCOTT HOUSE! THEY HAVE PEARLS-- BEAUTIFUL PEARLS!



IT'S LIBBY!

CAUTIOUSLY, NED FOLLOWED AS LIBBY CROSSED A PARK, APPROACHED A HOUSE--



HOLY SMOKE! SHE'S OPENED A WINDOW IN THE SCOTT PLACE AND GONE IN!



PEARLS ARE INSIDE!-- BEAUTIFUL PEARLS!



I... I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE IT! LIBBY-- THE PEARL THIEF!



THERE SHE GOES 'OUT ONTO THE BEACH!

LIBBY! STOP!

SUDDENLY, WITHOUT WARNING, NED FELT SOMETHING COLD AND HARD FASTEN AROUND HIS THROAT AND TIGHTEN -- TIGHTEN!



NO...NO! ARGH!

LATER-- I... I MUST HAVE PASSED OUT! I CAN STILL FEEL THAT COLD, AWFUL THING AROUND MY NECK-- AND NOBODY WAS BEHIND ME... NOBODY VISIBLE! ... LIBBY! WHERE IS SHE?



FILLED WITH DREAD, NED RACED TO LIBBY'S APARTMENT! THERE--



LIBBY!

NED! WHAT DO YOU MEAN, COMING IN LIKE THIS?

I SAW YOU TAKE THE SCOTT PEARLS! BUT THERE MUST HAVE BEEN SOMETHING WITH YOU-- SOMETHING HORRIBLE AND INVISIBLE! IT ATTACKED ME-- CHOKED ME...

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I HAVEN'T LEFT THE PLACE! I'VE BEEN HERE ASLEEP! YOU MUST BE DRUNK!

THE PEARLS! WHERE ARE THEY?

I'VE NO PEARLS! IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME, SEARCH THE APARTMENT! UNLESS YOU GET HOLD OF YOURSELF, NED, I'LL HAVE TO CALL THE POLICE!

THEY MUST BE HERE SOMEWHERE! SHE HAD THEM!

NED, LOOK! COMING OUT OF THE MIRROR! HELP!



THE... THE PEARL NOOSE... THE...

LIBBY! WHAT'S HAPPENED?

UNABLE TO SEE THE SPECTER OR THE LETHAL ROPE OF PEARLS, NED PLUNGED TO LIBBY'S SIDE! THEN, FOR THE SECOND TIME, HE FELT SOMETHING ENCIRCLE HIS NECK, HEARD A HOLLOW VOICE--



YOU WILL DIE! I SHOULD HAVE KILLED YOU EARLIER!

AWARE THAT HE WAS IN THE GRIP OF SOME SUPERNATURAL FORCE, NED STRUGGLED FRANTICALLY TO LOOSEN THE CHOKING ROPE--



A FAST GUN SHOT-- AND THE OLD MIRROR SHATTERED--



IT'S GONE! WHATEVER IT WAS-- IT'S GONE!

I... I SAW HER IN THE MIRROR! IT WAS GREAT AUNT SOPHIE! HER OLD MIRROR LET HER RETURN FROM THE SPIRIT WORLD-- UNTIL ITS DESTRUCTION DESTROYED HER!



IT'S UNBELIEVABLE, BUT SHE MADE YOU STEAL, LIBBY!... LOOK! PEARLS! THEY'RE THE ONES SHE FORCED YOU TO TAKE!

OH! THEN I... I WAS THE THIEF!



THE FOLLOWING DAY--

WELL, THERE GOES THE LAST OF THE PEARLS, ON THE WAY BACK TO THEIR OWNERS! IT'S BETTER TO DO IT ANONYMOUSLY, LIBBY! NOBODY COULD POSSIBLY BELIEVE THE TRUTH!

I GUESS NOT! I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT MYSELF!



NOW HOW ABOUT TAKING THIS RING BACK, SWEET-HEART?

DARLING, I WANT TO SO MUCH! IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR YOU, I SHUDDER TO THINK WHAT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED TO ME!

GOT A NICE BUY HERE, FOLKS...



BEAUTIFUL STRING OF MATCHED POOLS...

NOW WHAT'S EATIN' THEM? YOU'D THINK I WAS OFFERIN' 'EM POISON!



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